IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JASON E. BENSON,

CIVIL ACTION NO.1:CV-00-1229

Plaintiff : (JUDGE CALDWELL)

v. : (MAGISTRATE JUDGE BLEWITT

THOMAS DURAN, et al., :

Defendants : JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS FOR DISCOVERY ABUSE AND VIOLATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT DEC 0 7 2001

NOW COMES, the plaintiff Jason Benson, moving for sanctions against the defendant William Ellien, and his Attorney's at "Gold, Butkovitz & Robins, P.C., due to their debauched discovery practices, unprofessional conduct, and blatent disregard of this Court's order on October 16,2001. The pertinent violations being governed by the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure, 37(a); 37(b)(2)et seq; and the Local Rules of Civil Procedure for the Middle District of Pa., 26.9. The plaintiff avers the following in support of this motion:

- On October 16,2001, the Court ordered the defendant Ellien, to answer specifically two (2) thin; first, to provide a direct answer to plaintiff's Request for Admission Number 1 "[t]hat plaintiff was and/or is epileptic in July 27,1999, as well as to date." and Second, the defendant was directed to supply a specific response to an interrogatory, which states "[h] Now long have you practiced medicine?" To date the defendant Ellien has refused to answer and comply with this Court's Order.
- 2. Either, defendant Ellien, refused to provide the answers to his attorney's or the attorney's instructed him not to answer; these actions are unexceptable and the Rules mandates ample authority for the

Court to require the party failing to obey the order or the attorney advising that party or both to pay reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, caused by the failure to comply.

- Also in the Court 10/16/01, order, another pertinent issue 3. was touched upon; "[0]ne of the issues the plaintiff's requested a copy of his medical records. As the defendant points out, defendant Ellien is not the custodian of his medical records. The plaintiff must therefore direct his request to the custodian of the records." Id. at, § II. ¶ 2. Nonetheless, the plaintiff needs to reiterate that in his Motion for Order Compelling Disclosure or Discovery and for Expenses and Sanctions, Page 8, ¶ 1, states "[A]lso on 5/15/01, I submitted a request to the 'Corrections Health Care Administrator (C.H.C.A.)'Mr. George Weaver, about the release form for my medical records/files. Mr. Weaver's, reply was 'As of this date, May 16,2001, I have not received a request...regarding copies of your medical record.' You may want to contact him to see who he sent the release form to; see exhibits 'G & G-1'." Despite defendant Ellien's attorney's receiving the proper paperwork to secure plaintiff's medical records/files, and their subsequent acquisition of said records and files, to date they refuse to turn them over to plaintiff.
- On November 28,2001, defendant Ellien's attorney, Sean Robbins, mailed 24 pages of Confidential Medical Records to Joseph Dyson (CA-8143) a prisoner in this institution. The cofidential records are part of the plaintiff's Phychiatric Evalutions, Results of Blood Tests, and the like. The plaintiff has consistantly tried to obtain copies of his files for over seven months now and the Court has witnessed this fact; And now, despite following the proper procedures, not one of the defendant's attorney's gave a second thought to sending the records to plaintiff.

- 6. Each of the defendant's have received a copy of all of the plaintiff's medical documentation, pursuant to the friendliness of this institutions records custodian; who, disregarded the fact that such information [may not] be disseminated since it would reveal confidential information in plaintiff's medical records and is protected from disclosure as well. Cf. Heicklen v. D.O.C., 769 A.2d 1239,1242-43 (Pa.Cmwlth.2001); Times Publishing Company v. Michel, 633 A.2d 1321 (1993). Not only are the actions violations of plaintiff's Civil Rights, there are also clearly violations of the D.O.C's policies. In addition, defendant Ellien's attorney's clear violations of the Civil Rules of Procedure and the Rules of Professional Conduct leaves the plaintiff with two (2) options. Number 1, Add all of the parties involved i.e., "Gold, Butkovitz & Robins, P.C's and (Records Supervisor) Mark Heidel and (Grievance Coordinator) Sharon M. Burks, " as defendant's or Number 2, seek sanctions from all of the above.

- As a result of the above, the plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable Court precludes the use of plaintiff's medical/psychiatric records; grant the plaintiff sanctions or fine the D.O.C's employee's \$5,000.00 for violation plaintiff's rights to having his records kept private. The plaintiff seeks sanctions in the amount of \$15,000.00 from defendant Ellien and his attorney's property.
- 8. In the alternative, the plaintiff seeks to Amend his Complaint by adding as defendant's the above named participants and seeks punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for their conspiracy to swap his records without his consent; which was necessary pursuant to the D.O.C's policies. See ¶¶ 3 & 5, above. The plaintiff cannot stress sufficiently the need of the Court's ruling because, as it stands now, the plaintiff has -\$10.00 in his inmate amount; that means that he owes ten (10) dollars and the Institution is still telling him that he cannot make legal copies. Hence, none of the defendant's will be copied on the pleadings unless the Court orders the Clerk to send them some.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, Jason Benson, needs the Court to grant him the \$20,000.00 in sanctions as a stern reminder to the defendant Ellien, and counsel that this Court's order will be obeyed and the plaintiff's rights will not be tread on as if they were a mat to wipe their feet, and/or in the alternative the relief requested in ¶ 8, above as well as the sanctions; So the plaintiff Prays.

Date: December 4,2001

Jason Benson, Plaintiff

Respectfully submitted,

^{1.} The illegally diseminated documents are attached hereto as exhibits "B-1 thru 24."

AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH DYSON

I, Joseph Dyson, am an inmate at the State Correctional Institution at Smithfield. I am engaged in a civil-action against various corrections personnel and private practitioners. I have been working to complete the discovery process for trial that was Ordered to be scheduled by the court. See, Dyson v. Gillis, et al., 1:99-CV-1336.

On November 28, 2001, I received legal mail from defense counsel Sean Robins, Esquire, of Gold, Butkovitz & Robins, P.C. This mail was appropriately recorded in the block Legal Ledger by the block officer. It was a large white envelope marked with Certified Mail tracking number P-153-563-981. The package was clearly addressed to me and contained discovery material relative to my case. When I reviewed the contents of the material therein, I found what were Confidential Psychological, and Medical, records of Jason Benson (#DS-6483), another inmate who is confined at this institution.

I immediately realized these documents shouldn't be in my possession, so I discovered who Jason Benson was, and returned these documents to him. When I met him, I had explained to him how these documents came into my possession. I learned that the same attorneys are involved in both our cases. They had erroneously released the wrong confidential records to the wrong person. I asked him to let me know if he receives any of my records. I also advised him I will be available to give trial testimony should the same be necessary.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Joseph Dyson

SCI-Smithfield (#CA-8143) 1120 PikeSt., P.O. Box 999 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Date: November 30, 2001

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Chart

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RISK MANAGEMENT

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01/25/2000

CONFIDENTIAL

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

INMATE NAME: BENSON, JASON

DOC NUMBER: D\$\$483

DATE OF EVALUATION: 1/13/00

TIME: 1525 hours

INSTITUTION: SCI-Smithfield

The patient was evaluated today by Dr. Ellien in follow-up for his current mental health needs.

S: Problem #1

The patient reported that he is still having break through enxiety. He frequently does not take his morning Klonopin because he is over sleeping. Ambien, at times, help him to sleep but other times he only ends up feeling sluggish and lethargic the next morning. The patient denies depression but we continue to talk about antidepressant medications as an indication to treat panic disorder and his anxiety. We reviewed various options, including previous tricyclic antidepressants, Tofranii, Pamelor and Elavil. We also discussed Paxil. The patient agreed that Paxil would be his choice. I reviewed its indications, benefits, side and adverse effects and precautions and the patient gave consent. The patient continues to dany any hopelessness or suicidal ideation.

O: Current medication: Klonopin 1 mg b.i.d. although the patient frequently misses a.m. dose and Ambien 20 mg hs, daily.

Affect: Somewhat labile. Mood: Anxious. The patient denies any psychosis, hallucinations, agitation or suicidal thoughts. The patient did not show any tremor or abnormal or involuntary movement.

Panic disorder with agoraphobia, increased symptoms. ICD-9 CM: 300.01 GAF = 55.

Cancel Ambien order since it does not appear to be helping but does P: leave patient feeling sedated the next morning.

Cancel current Klonopin order and continue with full 2 mg dose all at hs. 2.

Begin Paxil 10 mg at 4:00 p.m., daily, for one week then increase to 20 3. William & Elicay M mg p.o. at 4:00 p.m., daily.

Next appointment in 2 weeks. 4.

William Ellian, M.D.

Psychiatrist

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CONFIDENTIAL

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

INMATE NAME: BENSON, JASON

DOC NUMBER: DS6483

DATE OF EVALUATION: 9/1/99

INSTITUTION: SCI-Smithfield

S: Mr. Benson informs me that he was just down at the county prison for a few days for legal matters. While he was there, he had a grand mal seizure and was admitted to the ICU. He demonstrates the lacerations produced by his teeth on the edge of his tongue. Mr. Benson informs me that he had been off his Dilantin some time during the month of August.

Mr. Benson reports that since he has been on Serzone, he has noticed no decrease in the intensity or frequency of his panic attacks and that he still has problems sleeping.

O: Mr. Benson is pleasant and cooperative throughout the interview process. He has a broad range of affect that is generally appropriate to context other than some narvous laughter when he is describing his seizures. He presents no suicidal or hostile ideation.

A: Panic attacks with agoraphobia (300.21), mixed personality disorder and seizure disorder.

P: We discussed the lowering of seizures produced by mini psychotropic medications and the habituating potential of Xanax and Ativan and the distinct fluctuations in there concentrations in his body particularly with any irregularity of usage.

I have written orders to discontinue Mr. Benson's Serzone and have written orders for Klonopin .5 mg in the moming and 1 mg in the evening hoping to enhance his protection against seizures and reduce his anxiety symptoms without taking inordinate risks of habituation. I would like to see him for a follow-up visit in one month.

> Eugene Palmueller, M.D. **Psychiatrist**

EP/mgr D:9/1/99 T:9/2/99



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RISK MANAGEMENT

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CONFIDENTIAL

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

INMATE NAME: BENSON, JASON

DOC NUMBER: DS6483

DATE OF EVALUATION: 1/27/00

TIME: 2000 hours

INSTITUTION: SCI-Smithfield

The patient is evaluated for current psychiatric needs in follow-up from last appointment with Dr. Ellien.

S: Problem B

The patient reports that he is not sleeping at night. He continues to feel very anxious and attributes this to ongoing court cases and near notice that he was going to return to Adams County tomorrow. He reported feeling somewhat hyper with Peoil but that side effects is going away. We discussed adjunctive use of Sinequan to assist with sleep and anxiety. Depressive symptoms were reviewed slong with indications, benefits, side and adverse affects and the patient indicated his understanding and gave consent.

O: Current medication: Klonopin 2 mg.at.night, Paxil 20 mg.at 4:00 p.m., daily.

Affect: Anxious and imitable. Mood: Upset and anxious. The patient denies any suicide thoughts. He denies halfucinations but does admit to sometimes seeing "shadows." He denied any other symptoms indicative of psychosis and there is no suicide thoughts or agitation.

A: Panic disorder with agraphia (300.01). GAF = 56.

- P: 1. Begin Sinequan concentrate 100 mg hs prn, daily, to help with eleep, depression and arxiety.
 - 2. Continue Klonopin 2 mg.each night.
 - 3. Continue Ambien 20 mg each night.
 - 4. Follow-up in telemedicine in 1 month.

William G. Ellien, M.D.

Psychiatrist

WGE/mgr D:1/27/00 T:1/28/00 09/27/00 WED 08:42 FAX 814 533 3110

RISK MANAGEMENT

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Jason Benson 17 May 2000 1740 hours Problem #R

<u>Smithfield – Progress Note for Psychiatry:</u>

The patient was clinically evaluated, today, for psychiatric needs. Last appointment on 4-11-00. S. I reflected with the patient how tense our last session was (refer to 4-11-00 note). The patient stated that his current concerns centered on going back to his county (Gettysburg) for trial. He shared that he was afraid his Dilantin would not be given to him. I shared that I would note, with emphasis, the importance of the Dilantin, in particular, being given as prescribed. Nurse also described the medical data which is placed on a transfer sheet as well as that inmate will have a 5-day supply of his meds sent with him. The patient noted that he has not been able to sleep. Otherwise, he appears to be tolerating taper of Klonopin. He continues to not want an antidepressant for treatment of anxiety disorder symptoms, however. He had been treated with Ambien last fall. It was generally helpful although eventually it was D/C'd due to mild side effects. In retrospect, this may have been due to concurrent Klonopin, which has been substantially reduced. After further discussion, we agreed to start PRN Ambien to get some help with sleep, and follow side effect issues. Klonopin taper and D/C orders will continue. Patient denied any fears or concerns about losing control. He denied anger problems or mood swings and he denied any suicide thoughts or assault or homicide urges.

Villiam G. Ellien, M.D.

Progress Notes Commonwealth of PA **Dept. of Corrections** DC-472

Inmate Name: Jason Benson Inmate Number: DS 6483

DOB: 9-27-76

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RISK MANAGEMENT

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Jason Benson - Progress Note of 5-17-00 continued:

Current Medication: Klonopin 0.5mg hs.

Affect: even, appropriate; mood: "worried".

Denies suicide thoughts; no psychosis or agitation.

No EPS or abnormal movements on examination.

Diagnosis: Panic Disorder without agoraphobia

 $\frac{\text{ICD-9 CM}}{\text{Axis 5: GAF}} = 60$

P. 1. Next appointment in 1 month.

2. Begin Ambien 20mg hs PRN insomnia.

3. Emphasis on medicines being dispensed while in county prison during trial.

William G. Ellien, M.D.

Progress Notes
Commonwealth of PA
Dept. of Corrections
DC-472

Inmate Name: Jason Beason Inmate Number: DS 6483

DOB: 9-27-76

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PROGRESS NOTES

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Progress Notes Commonwealth of Pennsylvania **Department of Corrections** DC-472

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Inmate Number: DS 6483

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Sep 26 00 02:44p

Ø 037

Jason Benson 23 March 2000 1520 hours Problem #B

Smithfield - Progress Note for Psychiatry:

The patient was clinically evaluated, today, for psychiatric needs. Last appointment on 2-17-00. S. ITP was held today. Patient talked at some length about his perception of how staff hold grudges against him. He feels he has done all he can to accommodate and that, other than "isolating myself completely" he can do no more. The patient provided another "letter" (one page, see note from 2-17-00) describing continued panic attach symptoms: palpitations, tremor, sweating, lightheadedness and feeling detached or separated from his environment. He also described these same symptoms, although not as severe, in relationship to taking Paxil, hence his refusal to take the medicine since late February 2000. Sinequan has helped his sleep and he denies problems with lightheadedness upon standing from a lying position with it. I described the "non detectable" blood level at the 150mg dose and recommended an increase in order to effectively prevent panic attacks. He asked if Klonopin dose could be doubled, which I declined due to past history of drug abuse and high risk of tolerance, as well as the fact that an antidepressant is the "treatment of choice" for treating panic disorder. We reviewed side effect and precaution issues with Sinequan and Klonopin and he noted his understanding and gave consent to the plan, below. He denied any anger problems, aggressive urges, suicide thoughts or psychotic symptoms.

O. <u>Current Medication</u>: Klonopin 2mg hs; Sinequan concentrate 150mg hs PRN; and Paxil 30mg at 4pm, daily.

William G. Ellien, M.D.

Progress Notes
Commonwealth of PA
Dept. of Corrections
DC-472

Inmate Name: Jason Benson Inmate Number: DS 6483

DOB: 9-27-76

09/27/00 WED 08:47 FAX 814 533 3110

RISK MANAGEMENT

Sep 26 00 02:44p

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<u>Jason Benson - Progress Note of 3-23-00 continued:</u>

Affect: even, appropriate; mood: "not great". Denies suicide thoughts; no psychosis or agitation. No EPS or abnormal movements on examination. Diagnosis: Panic Disorder without agoraphobia

 $\frac{\text{ICD-9 CM}}{\text{Axis 5: GAF}} = 55$

- P. 1. Next appointment in 3 weeks.
 - 2. Cancel Paxil order due to side effects.
 - 3. Change Klonopin to 0.5mg at 11am and 1.5mg hs, daily.
 - 4. Increase Sinequan concentrate to 250mg hs, daily.
 - 5. Check Sinequan blood level on/about 4-6-00.

William G. Ellien, M.D.

Progress Notes
Commonwealth of PA
Dept. of Corrections
DC-472

Inmate Name: Jason Benson Inmate Number: DS 6483

DOB: 9-27-76

Sep 26 00 02:38p

2009

p.18

Jason Benson 8 Dec. 1999 **1525 hours** Problem #B

Smithfield – Progress Note for Psychiatry: The patient was clinically evaluated, today, for psychiatric needs. Last appointment on 11-8-99. S. The patient is in the "hole" (RHU) since losing control of his temper and punching a door. He injured his hand. He attributed the loss of control to an increase in panic attacks and anxiety. He denied irritability or depression. Sleep onset is still delayed by 2-3 hours, but he preferred to continue the Ambien. He denied any medicine side effects. We discussed TCA (tricyclic antidepressant) options: report prior illicit use of Sinequan and having a seizure. Also discussed Tofranil, Pamelor and Elavil. He stated that he preferred to not change any of his medicines and stay with current regime. He denied feeling hopeless or suicidal and stated he was "stable"

O. Current Medication: Klonopin 1mg qAM and 1mg hs; and Ambien 20mg hs, daily.

mood: "stable". Affect: even, appropriate; Denies suicide thoughts; no psychosis or agitation. No EPS or abnormal movements on examination. Diagnosis: Panic Disorder without agoraphobia

ICD-9 CM: 300.01 Axis 5: GAF = 60

today.

- P. 1. Next appointment in 4 weeks.
 - 2. Continue Ambien 20mg hs, daily.
 - 3. Continue Klonopin 1mg qAM and 1mg hs.
 - 4. Will attempt further reductions in Klonopin, due to substance abuse behavior. Continue to consider a TCA to treat anxiety disorder.

William G. Ellien, M.D.

Progress Notes Commonwealth of PA **Dept. of Corrections** DC-472

Inmate Name: Jason Benson Inmate Number: DS 6483

DOB: 9-27-76

Case 1:00-cv-01229-WWC Document 121 Filed 12/07/2001 Page 27 of 30 09/27/00 WED 08:46 FAX 814 533 3110 RISK MANAGEMENT **2**035 Sep 26 00 02:45p p.33 03/24/2000 11:27 NO.539 **D0**2 AND PARTY DAY INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT PLAN ASSIGNED PSS 5. Trouten PREVIOUS ICD COOK TENTATIVE DATE OF NEXT REVIEW DETAINERS/OTHER OLIECTIVES TREATMENT OBJECTIVES PROBLEMS & GOALS (OBSERVABLE & MEASURABLE) TARGET DATE MINIMUM OF (2) mixendut free march out of When moselable SUMMARY (UPDATED TREATMENT PLAN INFORMATION): regioned black cards. He is currently not anhim s orapere for parale & complete

09/27/00 WED 08:46 FAX 814 533 3110

RISK MANAGEMENT

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Sep 26 00 02:45p

p.32 03/24/2000 11:27 NO.539 ALL THAT APPLY TREATMENT LENGTH OF TREATMENT INL 2/48 Every I/pu Up to 3 mos 2 wks Up to 6 mag More than 1 (11)INDIVIDUAL

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(14)EDUCATION

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REVIEW/UPDATES

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- 1. Initial review (to be completed within 14 days of admission)
- 2. SNU reviews a minimum of one every 120 days.
- 3. At the request of Unit Manager.

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Case 1:00-cv-01229-WWC	Document 121 Filed 12/07	72001 Page 29 of 30	<u> </u>
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2-24

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jason Benson, plaintiff, do hereby certify that on this 4th day of December, 2001, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion for Sanctions, Discovery Abuse and Violations of Professional Conduct to the Court.

Mr. Jason E. Benson, Plaintiff DS-6483, SCI-Smithfield 1120 Pike Street, P.O. Box 999 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Or, in the alternative fine the staff \$5,000.00 to bring them back into the relm of respecting prisoner's right of access to the Courts'.

^{*} The plaintiff is not sending a copy of his motion, he is sending the original. As the plaintiff has explained in the motion, the Staff here at SCI-Smithfield will not allow the plaintiff to make copies of his legal pleadings and is causing the plaintiff Access to The Court problems and it would be a huge relief should the Court issue an order stating that the plaintiff must be allowed to make copies of his pleadings.